

## Spanish Excursions in Sutter County

The first excursion by the Spanish into what is now Sutter County occurred in 1808 when a small group of soldiers led by Gabriel Moraga ventured into the valley searching for possible mission sites. He camped on the lower Feather River and being impressed by the greatness of the country called it Sacramento, which became the name of the valley and the great river. Leaving San Jose on September 25, 1808, they traveled along the rivers into the central valley reaching the Sutter Buttes on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Moraga described the Buttes as “a mountain range in the middle of the valley.”

In May of 1817, Father Presidente Mariano Payeras traveled up the Sacramento River under command of Luis Arguello, accompanied by Father Narciso Duran and Ramon Abella, exploring the area to within good view of the Sutter Buttes. Arguello published an account of his exploration: *The Diary of Captain Arguello: The Last Spanish Expedition in California*.